



Week of April 9, 2012

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Green Power

Green Power Network News for March 2012

This update summarizes recent green power marketing activity, including news and information on competitive green power marketing, utility green pricing programs, renewable energy certificates, green power purchasing, and related market activity. Additional information on green power markets and products, as well as links to the companies mentioned below, can be found on the U.S. Department of Energy's [Green Power Network website](#).

Announcement

- [Upcoming Webinar — Made with Renewable Energy: How and Why Companies are Labeling Consumer Products](#)

News

- [Viridian Energy to Launch Green Power in Massachusetts](#)
- [NativeEnergy and 25 Organizations Provide Upfront Funding](#)
- [Illinois Communities Opt for Community Choice Aggregation](#)
- [Washington D.C. Community Groups Unite to Purchase Green Power](#)
- [DOE Announces Startup of Biomass Cogeneration Facility](#)
- [Marin Energy Authority \(CA\) Expands Renewable Content of Offer](#)
- [Solar Garden Planned for Poudre Valley REA \(CO\)](#)
- [IKEA Continues Renewable Energy Efforts](#)

Renewable Energy RFPs

- [Commonwealth Edison](#)

- [Arizona Public Service Company](#)
- [Western Area Power Administration](#)
- [California Department of General Services](#)
- [Arizona Public Service Company](#)
- [Ameren Illinois](#)
- [Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority](#)
- [Holy Cross Energy](#)
- [New York City Department of Sanitation](#)

A complete list of active RFPs can found on our [Financial Opportunities](#) page.
Source: Green Power Network, 4/1/12

2012 Nomination Period Opens Monday, March 26, 2012

The annual Green Power Leadership Awards are competitive awards that recognize outstanding commitments and achievements in the green power marketplace. EPA's awards recognize leading Green Power Partner organizations and Communities that have helped further the green power market through their green power purchase or use of on-site renewable energy applications, overall green power strategy, and impact on the green power market.

EPA's awards include:

- Green Power Partner of the Year: Recognizes Partners who distinguish themselves through their purchase, leadership, overall strategy, and impact on the green power market.
- Green Power Community of the Year: Recognizes EPA Green Power Communities that distinguish themselves through their green power usage, leadership, citizen engagement, renewable energy strategy, and impact on the green power market.
- On-site Generation: Recognizes Partners who distinguish themselves using on-site renewable energy applications.
- Green Power Purchase: Recognizes Partners who distinguish themselves through purchases of green power from a utility green-pricing program, a competitive green marketer, or a renewable energy certificate (REC) supplier.

Deadline for nominations is Friday, April 20, 2012. The awards will be presented in conjunction with the [Renewable Energy Markets Conference](#) in Washington, D.C., Sept. 23 to 25.

Learn more [about the awards](#), or contact [Mollie Lemon](#) at 202-343-9859. *Source: Green Power Network, 3/27/12*

Visit U.S. DOE EERE [Green Power Network](#) for more information.

Renewable Energy Technologies

Geothermal Projects Less Vulnerable to Subsidy Cuts

Geothermal energy projects are less vulnerable than wind farms to the pending loss of federal subsidies because they take longer to complete, according to the executive director of the [Geothermal Energy Association](#).

About 100 megawatts of geothermal capacity will be added this year, and "steady growth" probably will continue because the industry is less volatile than wind, Karl Gawell, GEA executive director, said today in an interview.

A tax credit for wind farms will expire at the end of this year, and development of new wind farms may grind to a halt. A similar credit for geothermal projects will expire at the end of 2013, and Gawell doesn't expect his industry to be affected in the same way.

"There's some hysteria of, 'Oh, if this changes, it means the industry won't grow,' but it'll still grow," Gawell said. "We're still going to need renewable technologies. They'll be growing here and around the world."

The U.S. added about 91 megawatts of geothermal capacity in 2011 for a cumulative total of 3,187 megawatts, the most in the world, according to the GEA. Projects typically take four to eight years to complete, compared with one year for many wind farms, Gawell said.

Geothermal energy projects qualify for a tax credit of 2.2 cents for each kilowatt-hour of electricity produced.

Wind farms are eligible for the same credit, and turbine makers and developers are seeking an extension. The uncertainty surrounding potential subsidy extensions for renewables is discouraging investment in projects, Gawell said.

Wind Industry Risk

If the wind credit expires on schedule, installations of turbines in the U.S. may fall as much as 95 percent to 500 megawatts in 2013 from this year, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

Vestas Wind Systems A/S (VWS), the world's largest turbine maker, said in January it may close U.S. factories that employ 1,600 people if the credit expires.

The \$637 million spent last year on U.S. geothermal projects amounted to 1.4 percent of all renewable-energy investments, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance. The \$3 billion invested worldwide in geothermal plants equaled 1.1 percent.

Much of the growth is coming outside the U.S. Geothermal capacity in Japan could grow to 2 gigawatts in the 2020s, according to New Energy Finance.

"Globally, we will see a continued shift toward Asia," said Stefan Linder, an analyst with London-based New Energy Finance. "We expect over 50 percent of geothermal investment in that region, thanks to the number of late-stage projects, high-grade resources and increasing policy support." *Source: Justin Doom for Bloomberg, 4/5/12*

NREL Thinks Big at Wind Technology Center

The Front Range environment at the National Wind Technology Center (NWTC) is harsh. The winds — the very reason the NWTC is there — have little mercy. The frigid cold of winter gives way to the baking sun of summer. Yet in the midst of this difficult landscape, the future of wind energy grows bigger and stronger thanks to the work being done by the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) NWTC and its industry partners.

Findings from a recent report by analysts from NREL and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory indicate that further technology improvements will be critical to increasing wind turbine efficiency and lowering the cost of wind power development in the future. Research at NREL's NWTC is leading the way. [Read more](#). *Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 3/22/12*

New Report Finds U.S. Solar Energy Installations Soared by 109% in 2011 to 1,855 Megawatts

Today, GTM Research and SEIA release *U.S. Solar Market Insight: Year-in-Review 2011*, analyzing the industry's record growth and what lies ahead in 2012 and beyond.

The U.S. solar energy industry installed a record 1,855 megawatts (MW) of photovoltaic (PV) capacity in 2011, more than doubling the previous annual record of 887 MW set in 2010, according to the latest U.S. Solar Market Insight report. The record amount of solar installations is enough to power more than 370,000 homes, and represents a 109 percent growth rate in 2011. It is the first time the U.S. solar market has topped one gigawatt (1,000 MW) in a single year. In the fourth quarter of 2011 alone, the industry installed 755 MW, up 115 percent from Q4 2010, for a second consecutive record-breaking quarter. GTM Research and the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) estimate the U.S. solar market's total value surpassed \$8.4 billion in 2011. [Read more](#). *Source: Solar Energy Industries Association, 3/14/12*

Learn more about [renewable resources](#).

Outreach, Education, Reports & Studies

Free Tribal Webinar Series Focuses on Energy Self-Sufficiency

Join the Western Area Power Administration, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs, and DOE's Tribal Energy Program for a [free webinar series](#) to promote tribal energy sufficiency and foster economic development and employment on tribal lands through renewable energy and energy-efficiency technologies.

The webinar series started in August 2011 and will continue through September 2012. A complete list of upcoming tribal webinars is provided below and on the Public Renewables Partnership website, where previous webinar presentations are also available.

Tribes interested in responding to utility-offered renewable RFPs and/or interested in learning more about the competitive power market, utility staff, and other stakeholders.

There is no charge to participate in the webinars. However, you must [register to join them](#). *Source: Western Area Power Administration Renewables Program, 4/5/12*

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Issues Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines

On March 23, 2012, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) released its highly anticipated final Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines. The Guidelines present a tiered approach for the consideration and analysis of potential impacts to wildlife and habitat from onshore wind energy development. The five-tier process and other guidance found in the Guidelines aim to efficiently avoid and minimize impacts to wildlife and habitat by guiding the decisions of developers from the initial stages of site selection through the development of project design and the ultimate construction and operation of a project. While the Guidelines are voluntary, this new publication represents the informal rulebook by which the USFWS will judge the appropriateness of a site or project design and the adequacy of mitigation, including for purposes of enforcement. The new Guidelines replace the interim guidance published by the USFWS in 2003 and are effective immediately. The final version of the Guidelines does not significantly differ from the September 2011 draft version that was issued for public comment. [Read more](#). *Source: Stoel Rives, 3/29/12*

Educational opportunities for managers, engineers, operations professionals at RMEL spring conference

The Rocky Mountain Electric League's (RMEL) Spring Management, Engineering and Operations Conference is May 20 to 22—just one month away.

Join RMEL in Omaha, Neb., for outstanding continuing education and networking opportunities. This conference is a must attend event for engineering, operations and management personnel in the electric energy industry. With 30 presentations, this conference covers issues in generation, transmission, distribution, safety, customer service, human resources and other management topics. The timely topics and breakout structure of the conference allows attendees to customize their education experience to focus on presentations and resources that address their needs. There is ample time to network with industry peers and visit with exhibitors. Maximize your time and training budget with this value-priced and content rich event. Continuing education certificates are provided for the sessions attended.

Download the [brochure](#) and [register online](#), or call 303-865-5544. RMEL looks forward to you and your company participating in May! *Source: Rocky Mountain Electric League, 3/19/12*

Renewable portfolio standard webinar available to download

Whether due to statute or new legislation, many state renewable energy mandates are in transition in 2012 and 2013. [Renewable Portfolio Standards Update](#), a webinar from the Renewable Energy Markets Association, delves into generation technologies, sourcing requirements, and other revisions changing the face of renewable energy in the states.

Presentations cover:

- A summary of 2012's increased RPS requirements
- Major tier and sourcing requirements changes
- Trends and concerns in RPS modifications in 2012 and 2013
- How and regional RPS trends connect and influence national energy policy discussions
- Additional insights during a robust 'Question and Answer' session with the speakers

Source: Renewable Energy Markets Association, 3/7/12

California REC Market Update webinar available online

This webinar will present current updates regarding the California REC market. Participants will learn how California's 33% Renewable Portfolio Standard treats renewable energy certificates (RECs). The webinar will highlight implementation of the 33% RPS from the perspectives of state government, REC marketers, and utilities. The webinar will also explain the function of the voluntary renewable energy reserve account established under California's Cap and Trade Program.

Speakers included:

- Sara Kamins, (California Public Utilities Commission)
- Randy Lack, (Element Markets)
- Elaine Sison-Lebrilla, (Sacramento Municipal Utilities District)

[Download presentations](#). *Source: The Green Power Network, 4/1/12*

Learn more about [education and outreach activities](#).

News from Washington

EERE Biomass Program Monthly News Update for March 2012

- [Obama Administration Announces New Funding for Biomass Research and Development Initiative](#)
- Program to host Educational Opportunities in Bioenergy Webinar in April. Contact [Ashley Rose](#) for information.
- [President Obama Announces \\$14 million Funding Opportunity to Develop Transportation Fuels from Algae](#)
- [Register for the 34th Symposium on Biotechnology for Fuels and Chemical](#)
- [Biomass 2012 Registration Now Open](#)
- [Past](#) and [Upcoming Events](#) with Biomass Representation

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Biomass Program, 3/29/12

Learn more about [national activities](#).

State Activities, Marketing & Market Research

Desert Energy Enterprise Center to drive renewable energy jobs

New solar equipment unveiled at College of the Desert facility

Green jobs have arrived in the Coachella Valley, and a pipeline of new renewable energy projects will keep the opportunities coming — along with a need for ongoing job training programs.

That was the message trumpeted from the dais at College of the Desert's renewable energy training center in Palm Springs as state and local officials gathered to unveil the facility's newest piece of equipment — a 120-foot-long solar thermal parabolic trough.

The new equipment will be used to train students — some of them previously unemployed construction workers — on the assembly and maintenance of the large solar troughs. The big mirrors of the trough are similar to those to be used at NextEra's 250-megawatt Genesis project east of the Coachella Valley. [Read more](#).
Source: My Desert, 3/30/12

Obama Administration and Great Lakes States Announce Agreement to Spur Development of Offshore Wind Projects

As part of President Obama's all of the above approach to energy, the Obama Administration today joined with the governors of Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, and Pennsylvania to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will streamline the efficient and responsible development of offshore wind resources in the Great Lakes. This effort underscores the President's commitment to American-made energy, increasing energy independence, and creating jobs. [Read more](#). *Source: DOE EERE Progress Alert, 3/30/12*

BLM approves Tungsten Mountain Geothermal Exploration Project

The BLM approved a Tungsten Mountain Geothermal Exploration Project proposed by Ormat Technologies Inc., in Edwards Creek Valley, Churchill County, approximately 60 miles east of Fallon, Nev.

The proposed geothermal exploration project consists of 610 acres of public lands within the lease area. The EA analyzes potential impacts from the proposed exploration and testing activities proposed by Ormat. The primary objective of the project is to further evaluate the characteristics of the geothermal resources in the Tungsten Mountain Project Area.

The proposed activities include:

- Constructing 27 exploration well drill pads
- Construct and maintain a 5-acre mineral material pit
- Constructing, improving or maintaining access roads
- Drilling and completing an exploration well to a depth of about 7,000 feet from each of the constructed drill pads
- Flow testing exploration wells to obtain samples of geothermal fluids and to collect aquifer information from the geothermal reservoir
- Drilling temporary water wells at one or more proposed drill

Review the [documents online](#). *Source: KRNV & MyNews 4, 3/29/12*

Small-Town Solar Revolution Has Created Jobs Galore & Driven Down Price of Power in Germany

Solar energy policies in Germany have resulted in a jobs boom and have driven down the price of power on the EPEX Power Exchange. More people work in Germany's solar energy sector than in its coal and nuclear sectors combined. (Don't tell this year's GOP candidates — they somehow think clean energy and green jobs is all just talk.) But there's a lot more to get excited about than just jobs (even though those are pretty sweet).

[Read more](#). Source: *Clean Technica*, 3/19/12

Study requirements for solar systems frustrating for installers, homeowners

Maui homeowners and photovoltaic system installers are expressing frustration at requirements that they pay for expensive "interconnection studies" before installing solar panels, with no guarantee that their project will be approved after the study is complete.

The issue appears to stem from a recent surge in photovoltaic systems, adding more renewable energy to the island's electrical grid than Maui Electric Co. can handle. MECO officials said the interconnection studies - which can cost homeowners as much as \$15,000 to \$20,000 — are needed to ensure their system can be integrated into the grid without causing outages or interrupting a steady energy supply. But advocates said the requirement has discouraged homeowners from converting to solar power and served to limit the growth of photovoltaic energy on the island. [Read more](#). Source: *The Maui News*, 3/18/12

Learn more about [energy analysis](#).

Grants, RFPs & Other Funding News

Announcing Van Ness Feldman's Federal Funding Resource Center

We are pleased to announce the launch of our [Federal Funding Resource Center](#), an online information tool designed to inform our clients and friends about key energy-, environment-, and resource-related federal funding opportunities across a range of federal agencies including the Departments of Energy, Defense, Agriculture, and the Interior. The Federal Funding Resource Center, which is updated daily, compiles active Federal funding opportunity announcements in one place for ease of review. The Federal Funding Resource Center also includes a [Primer](#) on the Federal funding process.

For more information on the firm's capabilities in this area, please contact [Shannon Angielski](#) or any other member of the firm's [Federal Funding Practice](#) at 202-298-1800. *Source: Van Ness Feldman, 4/4/12*

Obama Administration Announces New Funding for Biomass Research and Development Initiative

Subject to annual appropriations, USDA and DOE plan to contribute up to \$35 million over three years for this year's [Biomass Research and Development Initiative solicitation](#). This funding is expected to support five to seven projects over three to four years. A description of the solicitation, eligibility requirements, and application instructions is available at [FedConnect](#) and [Grants.gov](#) under Reference Number DE-FOA-0000657. Applications are due April 23, 2012, and must be submitted electronically. It is anticipated that applicants who submit completed applications will be notified of the results by June 15, 2012. *Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Biomass Program, 3/22/12*

DOE Funding Announcements

Please note the following funding opportunities from the U.S. Department of Energy.

- National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) [solicitations and financial opportunities](#)
- DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) [financial opportunities](#)
- Federal government funding opportunities are located at [Grants.gov](#) and [FedConnect](#)

Other opportunities include:

- [Advanced Research Projects Agency — Energy](#): The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Advanced Research Projects Agency — Energy (ARPA-E) issued a \$150 million funding opportunity open to all transformational energy technologies to support approaches to solve our nation's most pressing energy challenges. This Open Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is a call to scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs to propose early-stage research projects that would not otherwise be able to attract private investment, but could lead to breakthrough energy technologies.
- [Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer \(SBIR/STTR\) Programs](#): DOE issued the Phase I (Release 3) topics on March 5, 2012. The Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is scheduled to be issued on April 3, 2012, with Pre-Applications due on May 1, 2012. Full applications will be due on July 3, 2012. The DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) is the only participating DOE research program.

Source: National Energy Technology Laboratory, 3/16/12

Learn more about [funding solicitations](#).

This news item comes to you as a service of Western's [Renewable Resources Program](#).